C1

64. (new) A catheter assembly for the controlled ablation of tissue using radio frequency (RF) energy, comprising:

a first tubular member comprising a lumen extending between proximal and distal ends, the proximal end attachable to a source of electrolyte fluid for delivering fluid through the lumen;

an electrode on the distal end of the first tubular member, the electrode being connectable to a source of RF energy; and

a second tubular member having a proximal end, a distal end sized for insertion into a patient's body, and a lumen extending between the proximal and distal ends within which the first tubular member is received such that the distal end of the second tubular member is offset distally from the distal end of the first tubular member, thereby disposing the electrode within the lumen of the second tubular member;

whereby RF energy may be transferred from the electrode to tissue beyond the distal end of the second tubular member via electrolyte fluid delivered through the lumen of the first tubular member.

65. (new) The catheter assembly of claim 64, wherein the first tubular member is slidably disposed within the lumen of the second tubular member such that the first tubular member provides a fluid-tight seal preventing fluid flow between the first and second tubular members.

66. (new) The catheter assembly of claim 64, wherein the first tubular member is substantially smaller than the lumen of the second tubular member, thereby defining an annular lumen therebetween through which fluid may flow.

67. (new) The catheter assembly of claim 64, wherein a distance between the distal end of the second tubular member and the distal end of the first tubular member is between about 0.08 inches and about 0.05 inches when the first tubular member is fully inserted within the second tubular member.

C1 cont

68. (new) The catheter assembly of claim 64, further comprising a conductor extending proximally from the electrode through the first tubular member for coupling the electrode to a source of RF energy.

69. (new) The catheter assembly of claim 68, further comprising a wire lumen extending through the first tubular member, the conductor extending through the wire lumen such that the wire lumen electrically insulates the conductor from the electrolyte fluid.

Sub D1

70. (new) An apparatus for ablating body tissue using radio frequency (RF) energy, comprising:

(3)

a catheter having a proximal portion attachable to a source of electrolyte fluid, a distal portion sized for insertion into a patient's body, and a lumen for delivering fluid from the proximal portion to the distal portion;

(5)

an expandable member disposed on the distal portion of the catheter, the expandable member defining an interior region in communication with the lumen; and

(44)

C 1 cont.

an electrode on the distal portion and communicating with the lumen, the electrode configured for coupling to a source of RF energy, whereby RF energy may be transferred from the electrode to selected tissue areas in a patient's body via electrolyte fluid delivered through the lumen and into the interior region of the expandable member.

71. (new) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the expandable member has a substantially planar distal end.

Sub E1

72. (new) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the expandable member is attached to the distal portion such that a substantially smooth outer surface profile is presented by the distal portion.

73. (new) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the distal portion extends into an interior space of the expandable member.

74. (new) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the expandable member defines an interior space in communication with the lumen and wherein the electrode is disposed within the interior space.

75. (new) The apparatus of claim 74, wherein the electrode comprises a plurality of apertures, the apertures allowing electrolyte fluid to pass therethrough into the interior space.

C1 cont

76. (new) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the expandable member further comprises a plurality of perforations to allow flow of electrolyte fluid from an interior space of the expandable member to the selected tissue areas beyond the expandable member.

77. (new) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the electrode is disposed within the lumen.

78. (new) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the electrode extends from the distal portion of the catheter, the electrode comprising an interior communicating with the lumen.

Sub D2

79. (new) A method for the ablating body tissues, comprising:

inserting a distal portion of a tubular member into the patient's body, the distal portion comprising an expandable member in a collapsed condition and an electrode within an interior space of the expandable member;

positioning the distal portion of the tubular member proximate a target site;

directing electrolyte fluid through the lumen of the tubular member and into the interior space of the expandable member; and

energizing the electrode with ablation energy, thereby transferring ablation energy from the electrode through the expandable member via the electrolyte fluid to ablate the target site.

C1 cont.

80. (new) The method of claim 79, wherein the expandable member comprises a plurality of perforations through which the electrolyte fluid flows to the target site.

Sub E1

81. (new) The method of claim 79, wherein the expandable member is expanded as electrolyte fluid is directed into the interior space.

Sub B3 D1

82. (new) An apparatus for ablating body tissue using radio frequency (RF) energy, comprising:

a catheter having a proximal portion attachable to a source of electrolyte fluid, a distal portion sized for insertion into a patient's body, and a lumen for delivering fluid from the proximal portion to the distal portion;

a porous member attached to the distal portion of the catheter, the porous member defining an interior region in communication with the lumen, the interior region capable of receiving electrolyte fluid delivered from the proximal portion of the catheter; and

an electrode disposed in the interior region and configured for coupling to a source of RF energy.

c1 cont. 361

83. (new) The apparatus of claim 82, wherein the electrode extends from the distal portion of the catheter.

84. (new) The apparatus of claim 82, wherein the porous member has a substantially planar distal end.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 2/2, 2001

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